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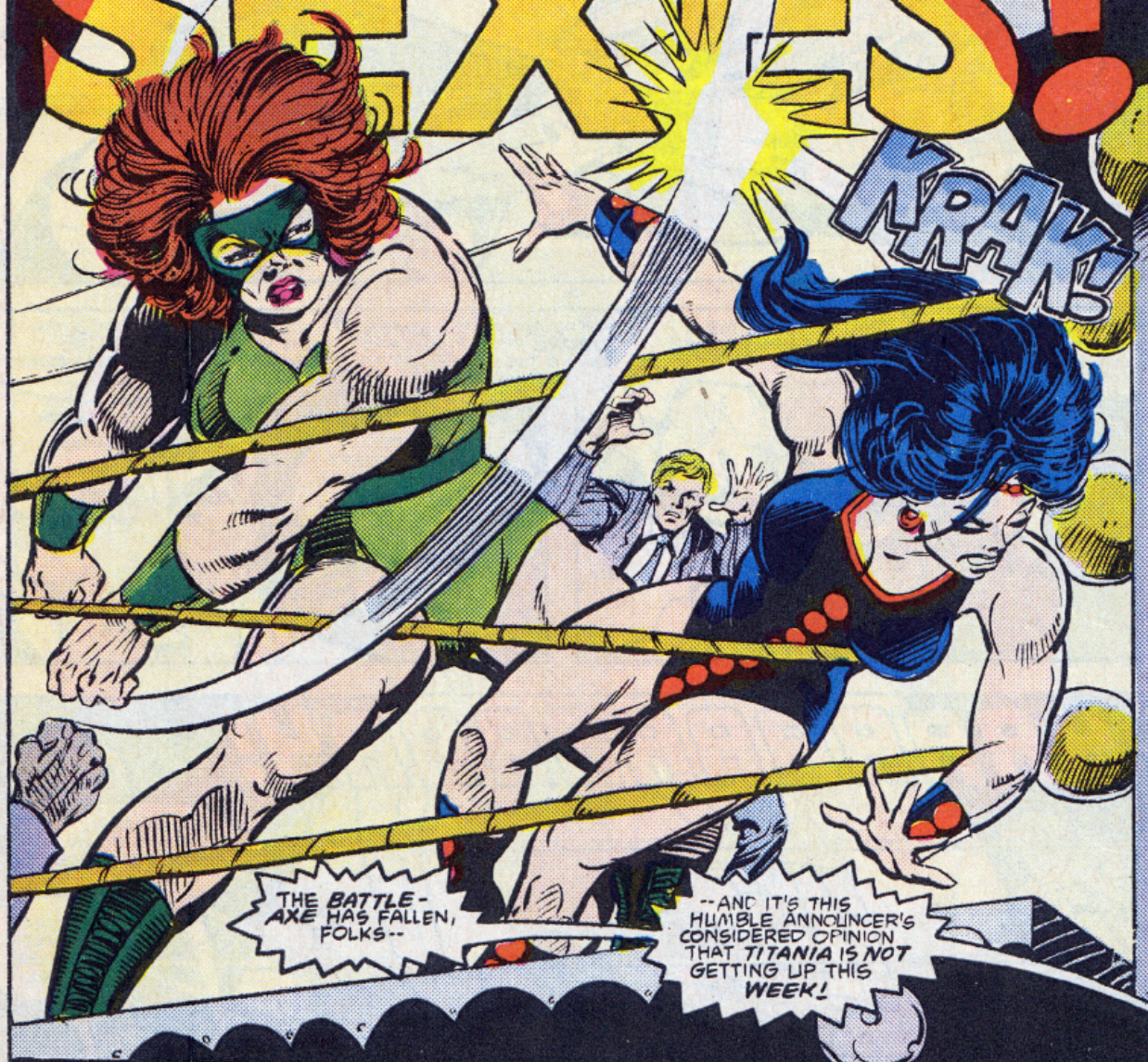
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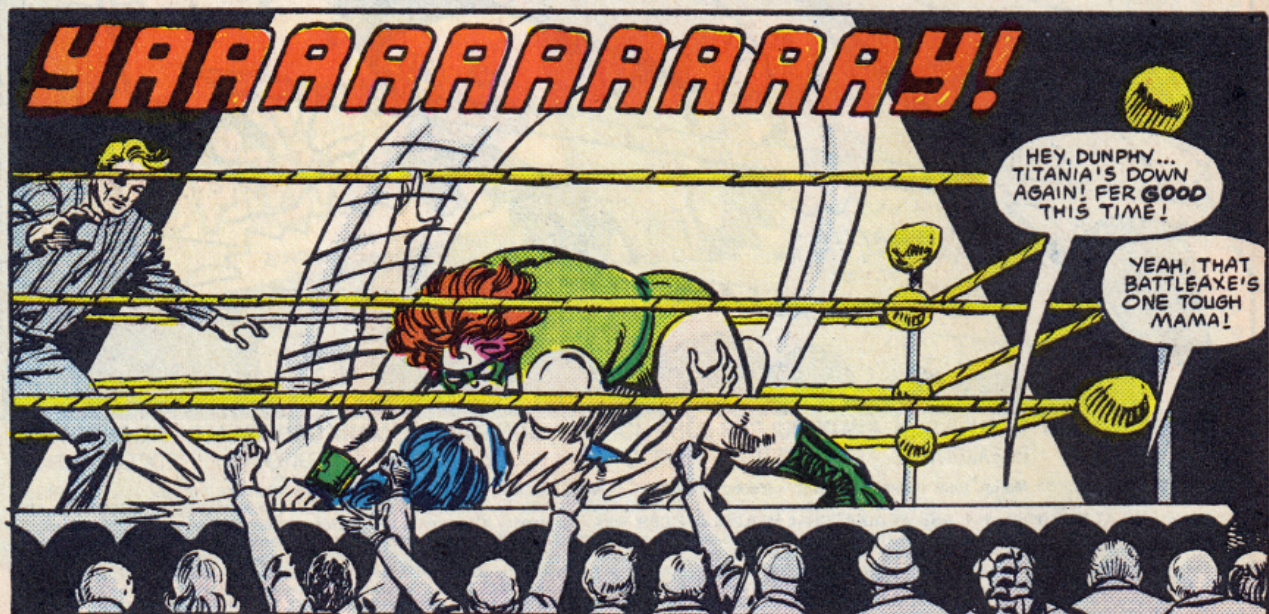
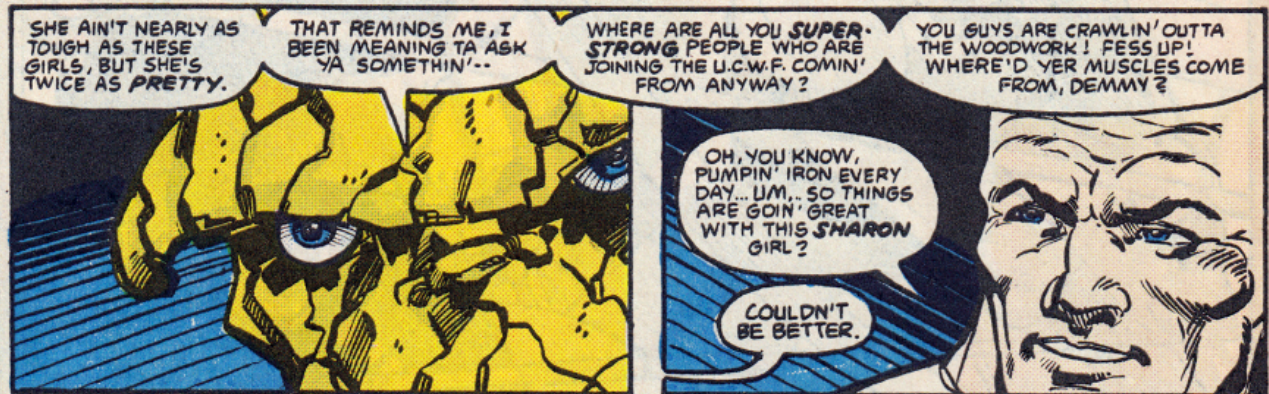
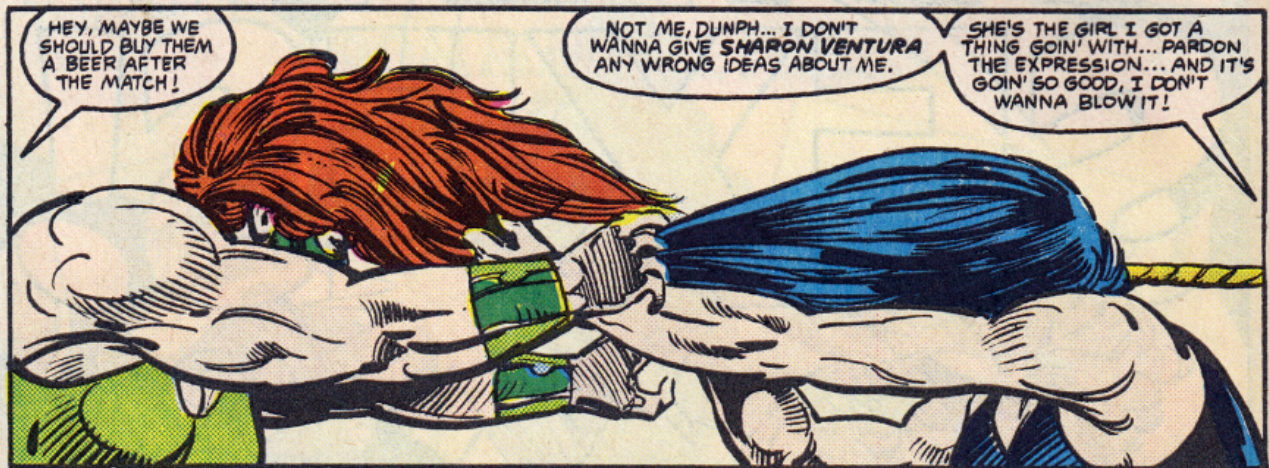
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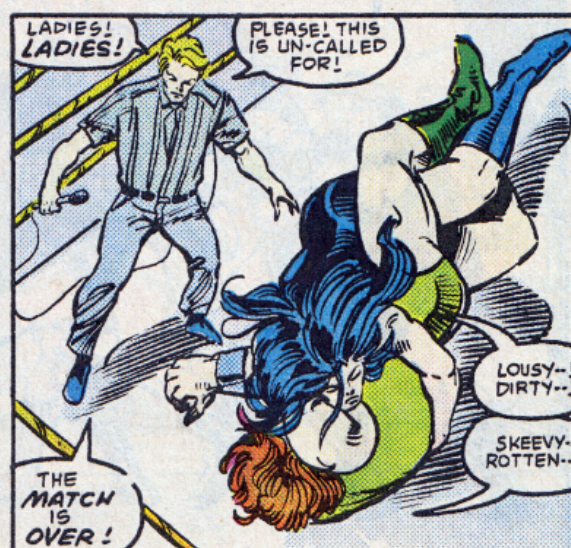
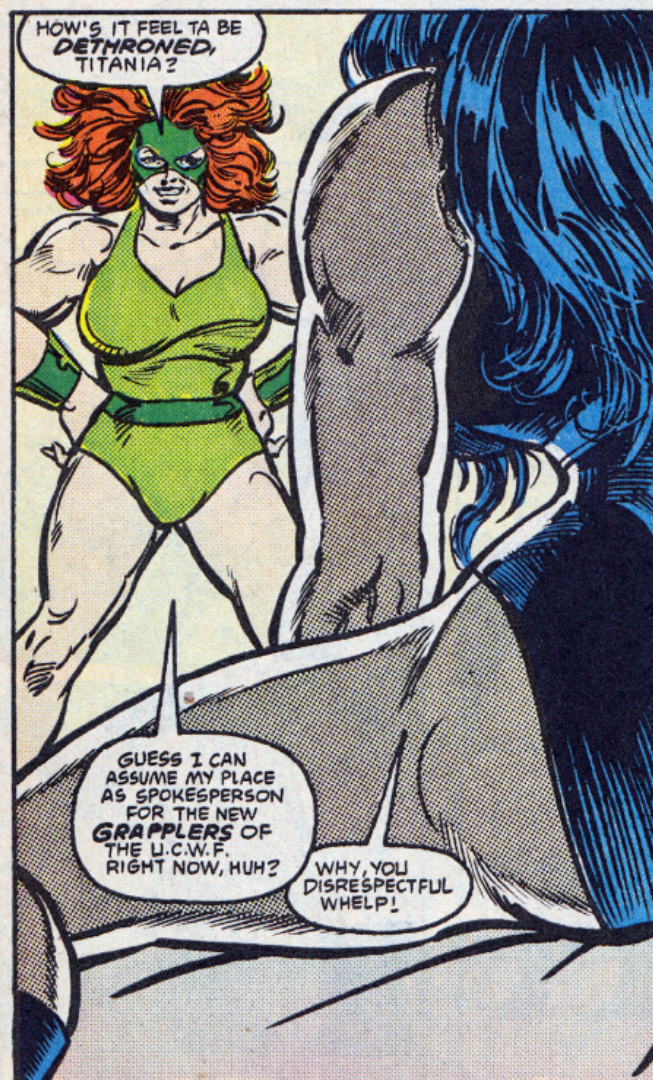
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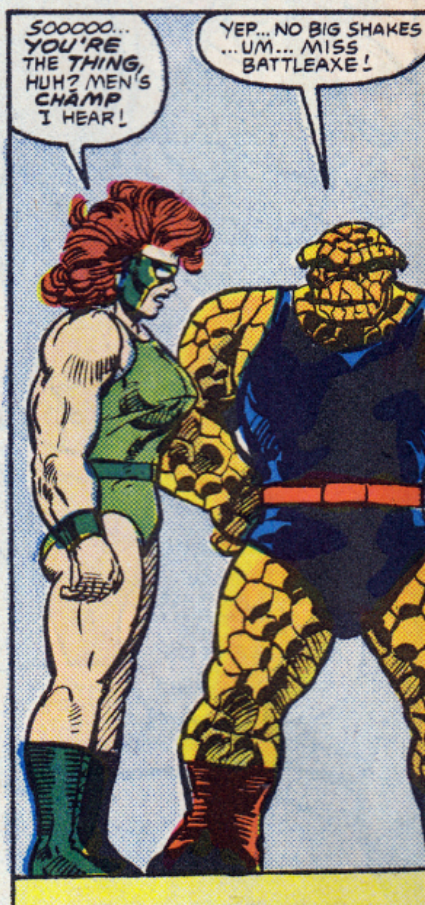
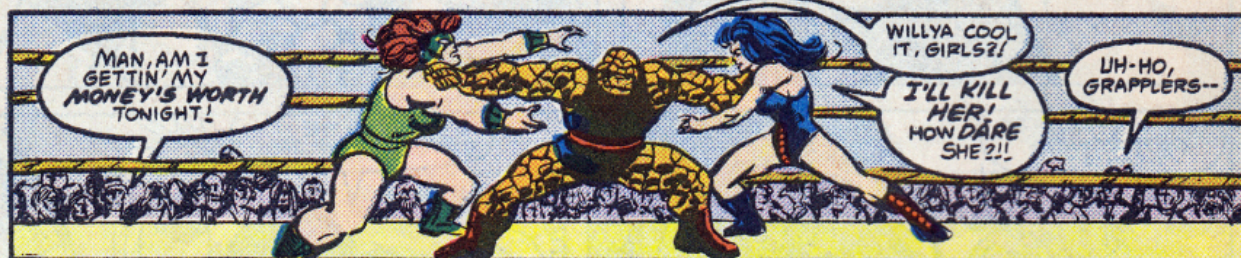
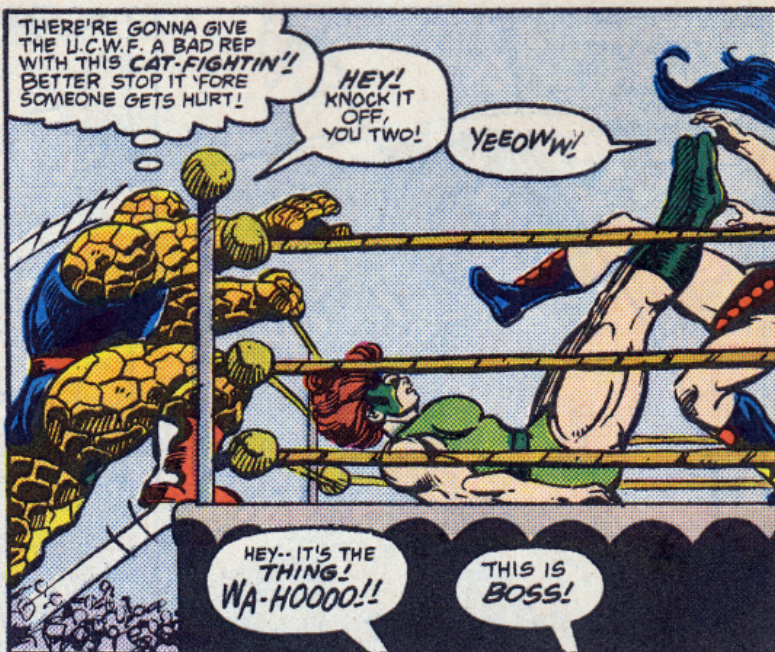
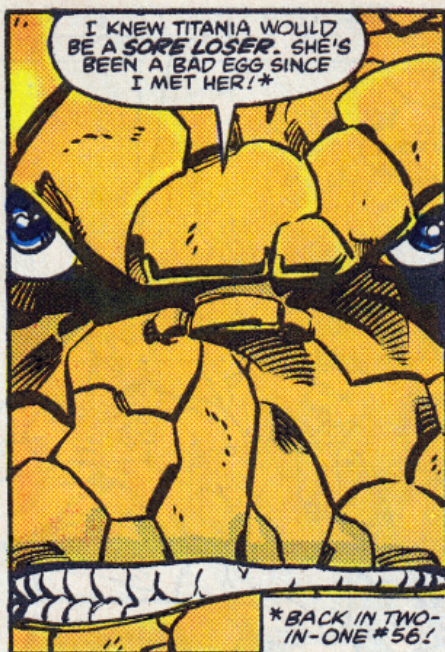


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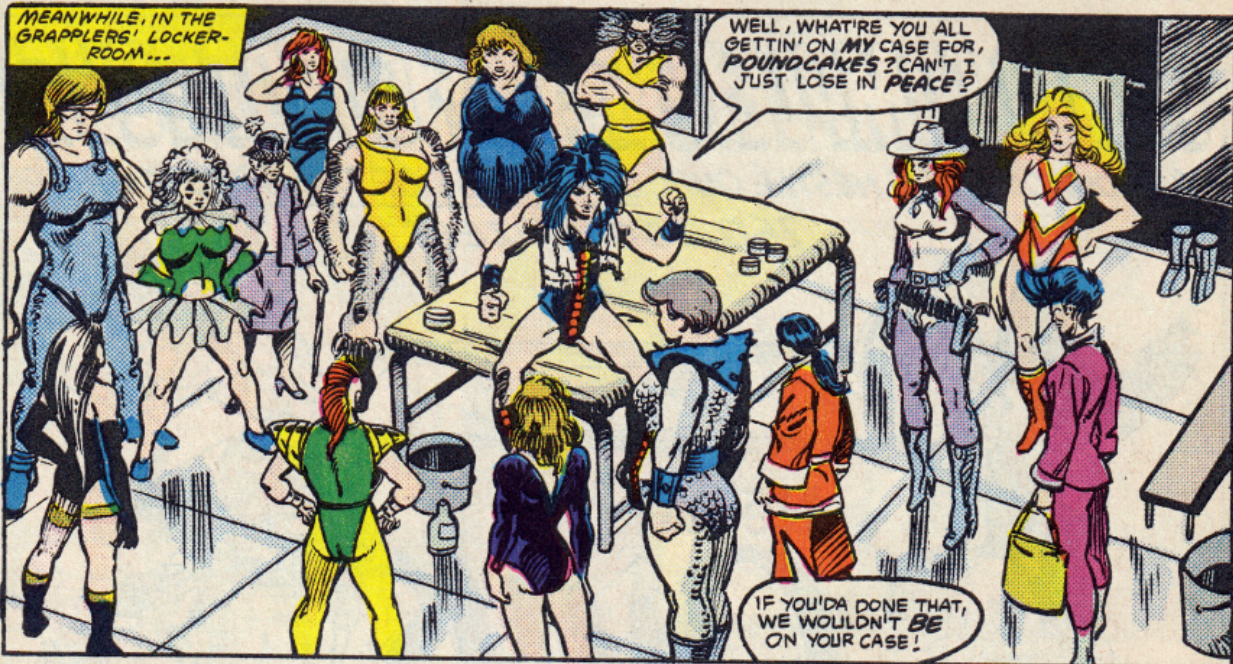
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MEANWHILE, IN THE GRAPPLERS' LOCKER-ROOM...



WELL, WHAT'RE YOU ALL GETTIN' ON MY CASE FOR, POUNDCAKES? CAN'T I JUST LOSE IN PEACE?

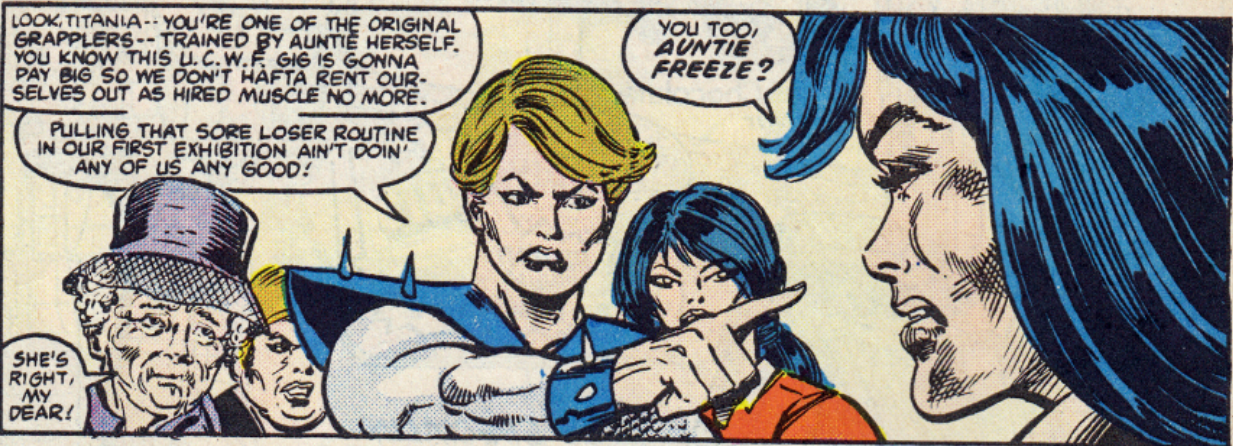
IF YOU'DA DONE THAT, WE WOULDN'T BE ON YOUR CASE!

LOOK, TITANIA-- YOU'RE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GRAPPLERS-- TRAINED BY AUNTIE HERSELF. YOU KNOW THIS U.C.W.F. GIG IS GONNA PAY BIG SO WE DON'T HAFTA RENT OURSELVES OUT AS HIRED MUSCLE NO MORE.

PULLING THAT SORE LOSER ROUTINE IN OUR FIRST EXHIBITION AIN'T DOIN' ANY OF US ANY GOOD!

YOU TOO, AUNTIE FREEZE?

SHE'S RIGHT, MY DEAR!



YES, AND THE FEMALE WRESTLING LEAGUE IS ALREADY LOOKED DOWN UPON--

--BECAUSE OF YOU ORIGINAL GRAPPLERS' PRISON RECORDS!

THE GRAPPLERS' OUTLAW DAYS ARE OVER! WE'RE LEGIT NOW! WE PAID OUR DUES! AND ONLY AUNTIE FREEZE'S MANY YEARS IN THE BUSINESS HELPED US GO STRAIGHT IN WRESTLING!

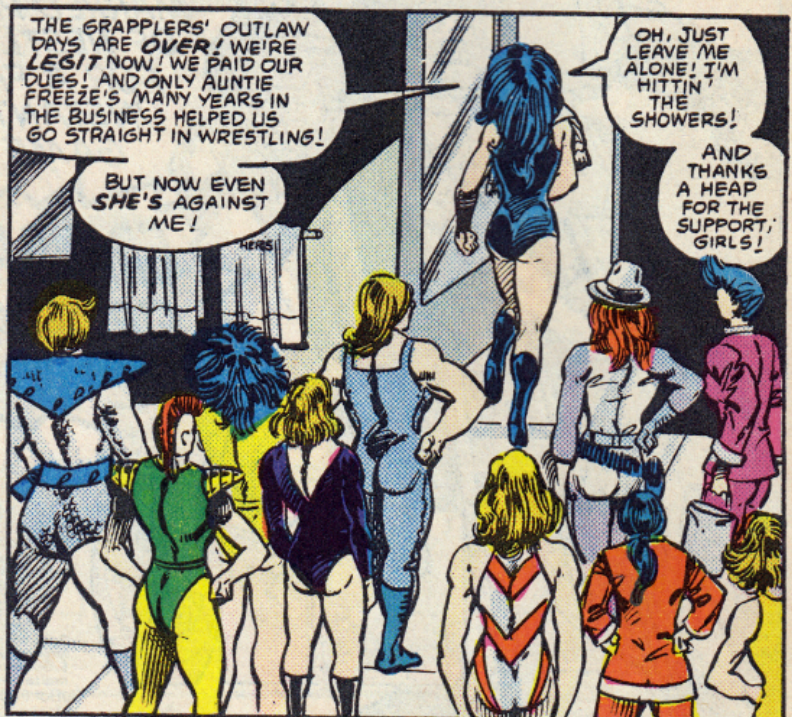
BUT NOW EVEN SHE'S AGAINST ME!

OH, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M HITTIN' THE SHOWERS!

AND THANKS A HEAP FOR THE SUPPORT, GIRLS!



I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR THIS!



CAP'S GONNA STAR IN A BROADWAY SHOW...



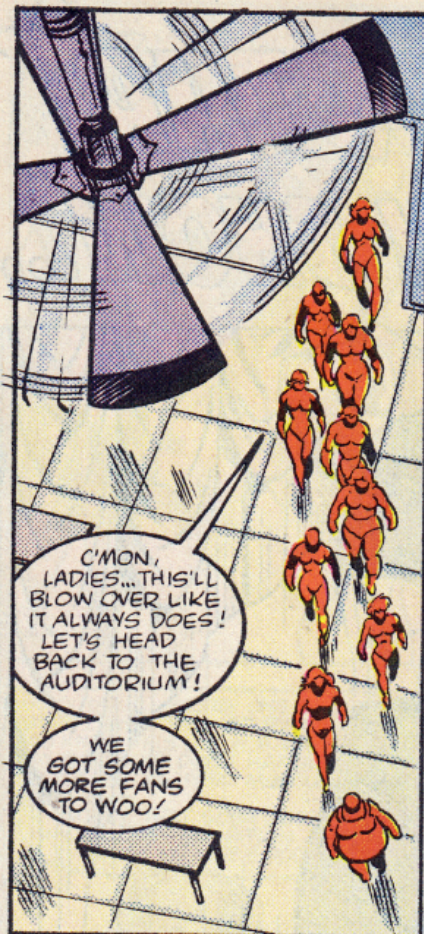
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C'MON, LADIES... THIS'LL BLOW OVER LIKE IT ALWAYS DOES! LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE AUDITORIUM!

WE GOT SOME MORE FANS TO WOO!

HEY, NEW GIRL--**GOLDDIGGER**, ISN'T IT?--YOU HEARD AUNTIE FREEZE... IF YOU WANNA MAKE IT WITH THE GRAPPLERS YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR PRETTY LITTLE BEHIND UP TO RINGSIDE FOR SOME UP-CLOSE **EDUCATING!**

I'D JUST LIKE TO STAY A SECOND... AND, YOU KNOW, KINDA QUIET **TITANIA** DOWN.

SUIT YOURSELF, THEN.



THEY'RE GONE. AND THIS LITTLE BABY OUGHTA QUIET **TITANIA** DOWN...

...FOR GOOD!



ELSEWHERE...

I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHEW THE FAT WITH YOU, CHAMP... BUT I NEED ME A SHOWER BAD... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

YEP, I'M THE SAME WAY AFTER A MATCH!

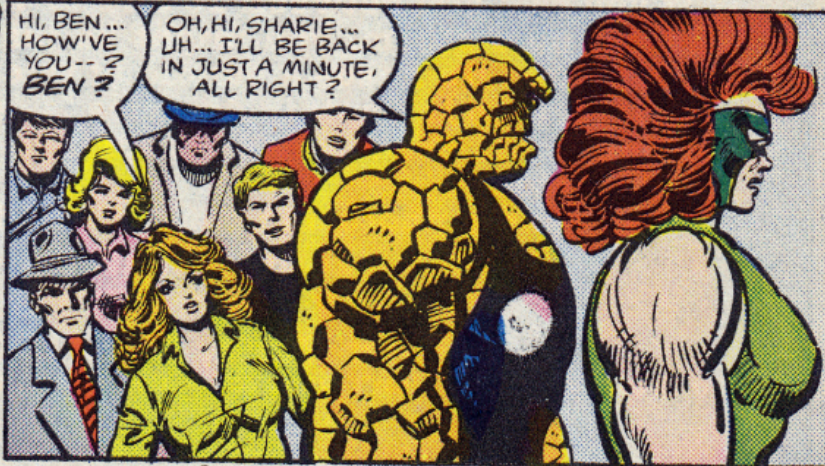
HEY, THERE'S **SHARON**, IN THE FIRST ROW! BOY, SHE'S BEEN LYIN' LOW SINCE OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE TROPICS! * WONDER IF SHE'S IRKED AT ME OR SOMETHIN'?

SHE AIN'T BEEN RETURNIN' MY CALLS EITHER. MAYBE I'LL TRY THE OL' JEALOUSY ROUTINE...

* LAST ISSUE.

UH... **BATTLEAXE**... D'YA MIND IF I WALK YA TA THAT SHOWER?

WHAT--? OH, NO... WHAT-EVER...

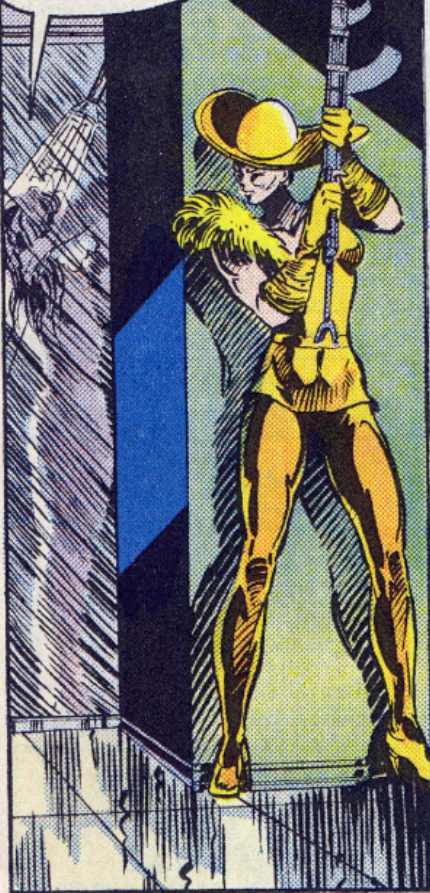


HI, BEN... HOW'VE YOU--? **BEN?**

OH, HI, **SHARIE**... UH... I'LL BE BACK IN JUST A MINUTE, ALL RIGHT?

WHILE AHEAD...

GOLDDIGGER?
IS THAT YOU? HEY,
DO ME A FAVOR AND
GET ME A FRESH
BAR OF SOAP,
WILLYA?



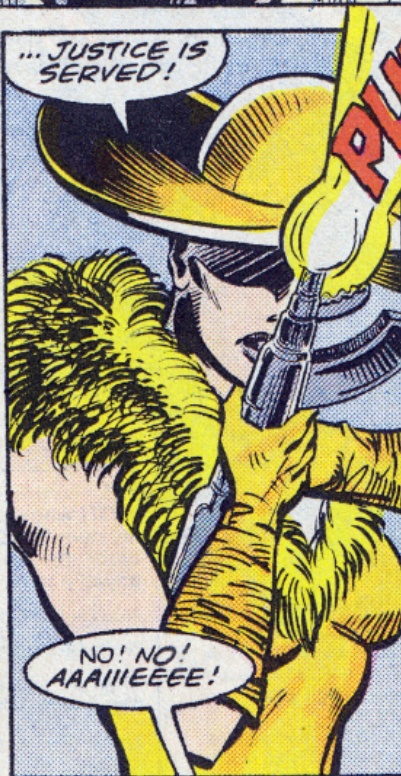
YOUR
CRIMES HAVE
GONE UNPUNISHED
FOR FAR TOO LONG,
TITANIA!



UNPUNISHED?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN... DIDN'T YOU
SEE THAT FIGHT I
JUST LOST? I'VE
BEEN PUNISHED
BUT GOOD!

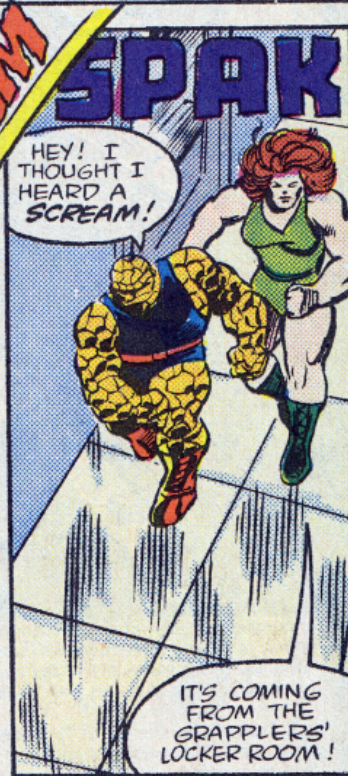
NOW QUIT
KIDDING, PUT
THAT TOY DOWN
AND GET ME
THE SOAP,
PLEASE.

SORRY,
TITANIA...
NO SOAP...



... JUSTICE IS
SERVED!

NO! NO!
AAAAIEEEEE!



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THOUGHT I
HEARD A
SCREAM!

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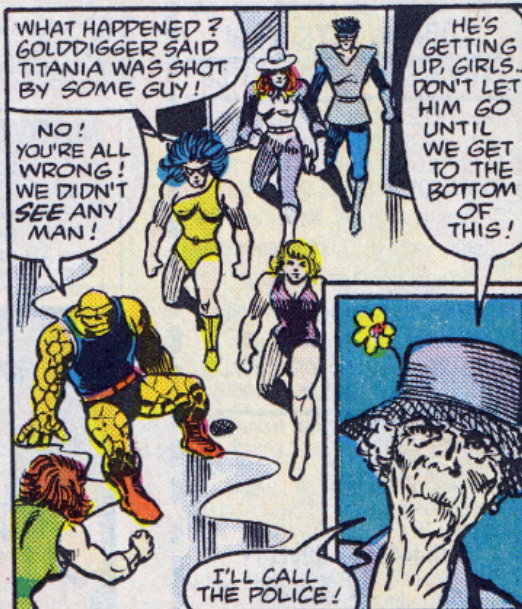
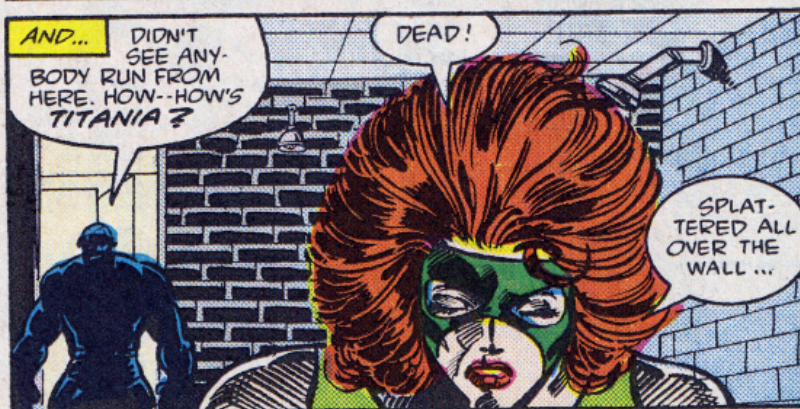
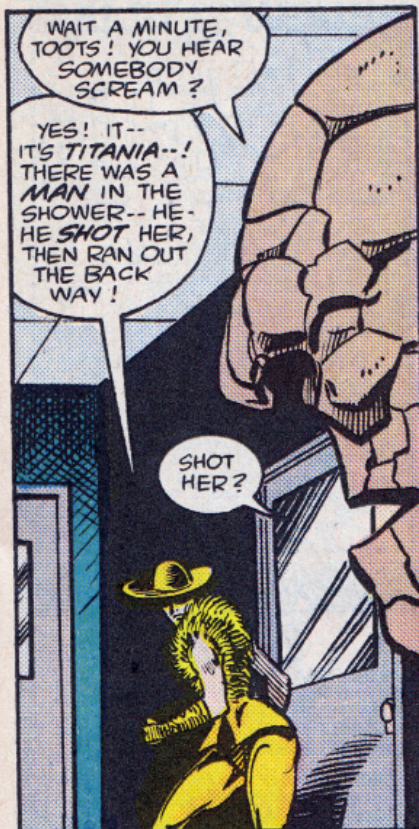
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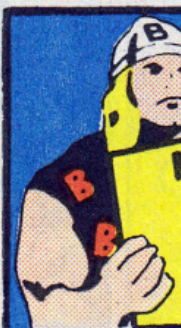
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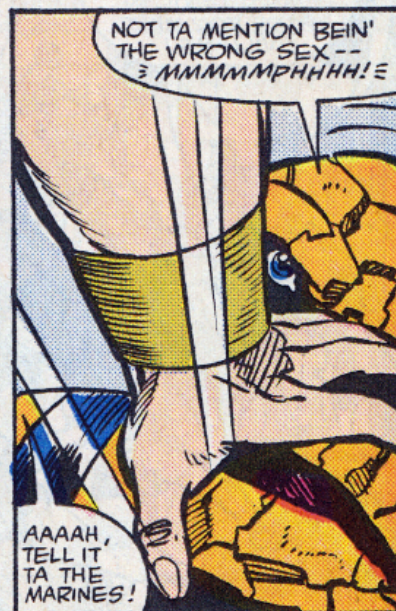
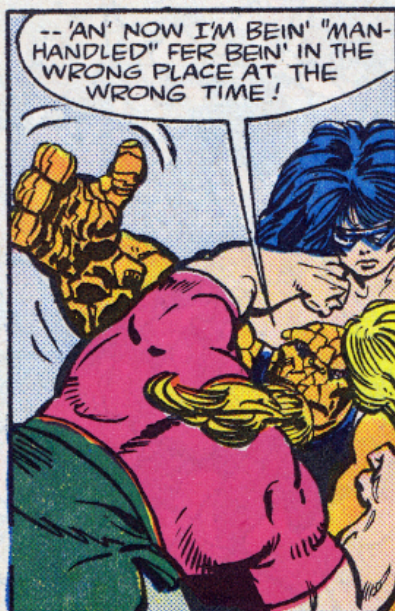
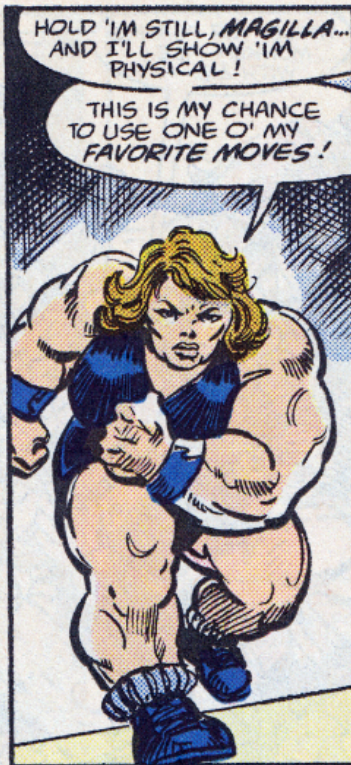
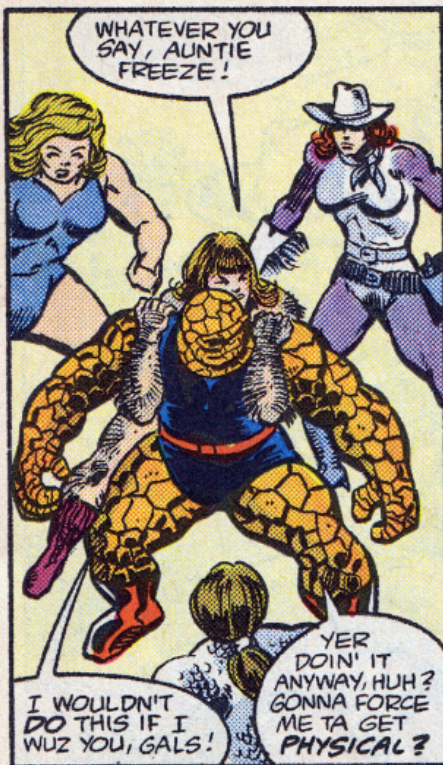
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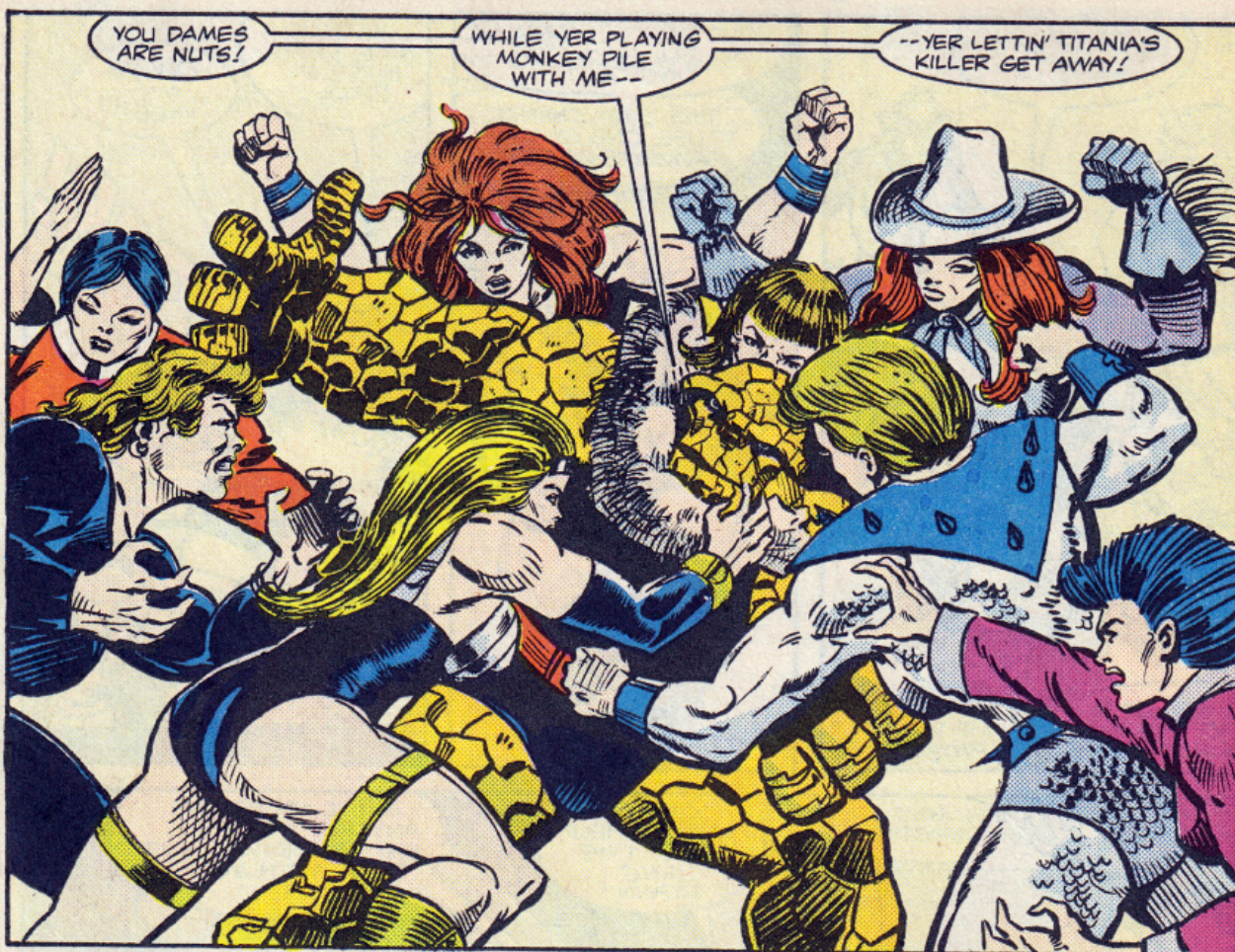
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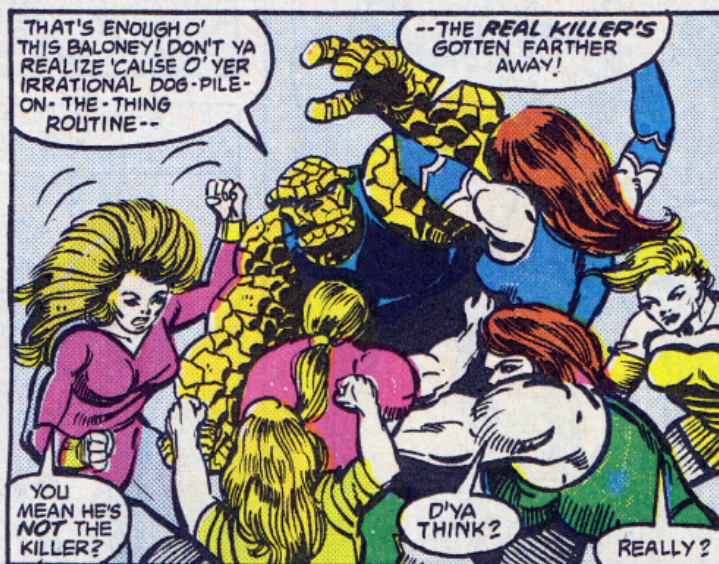
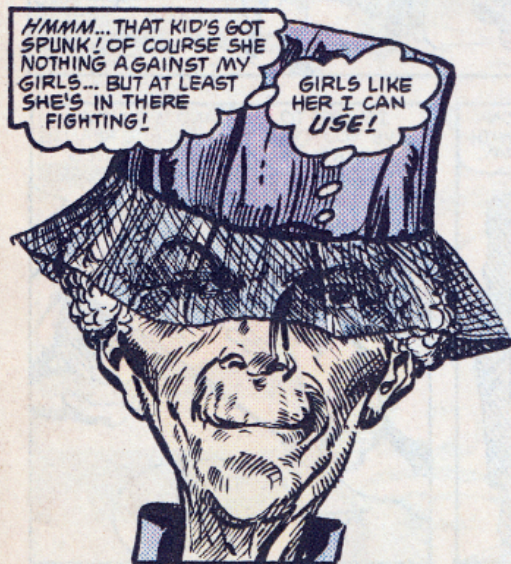
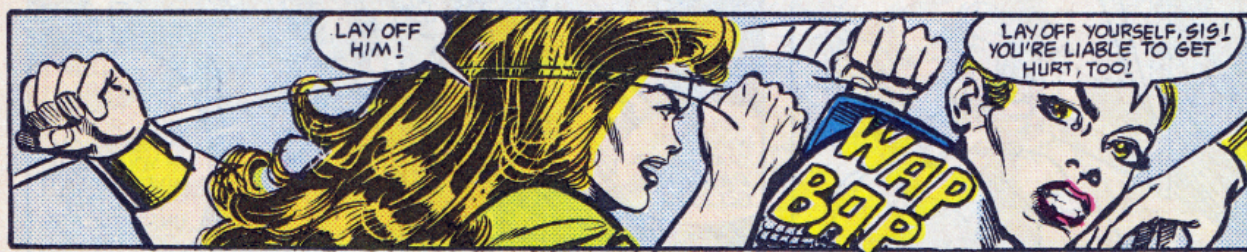
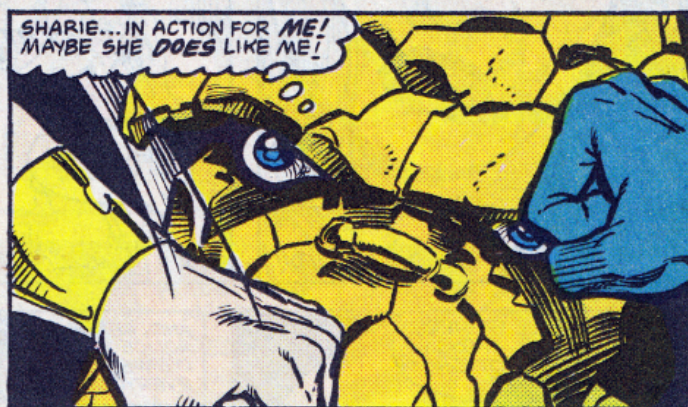
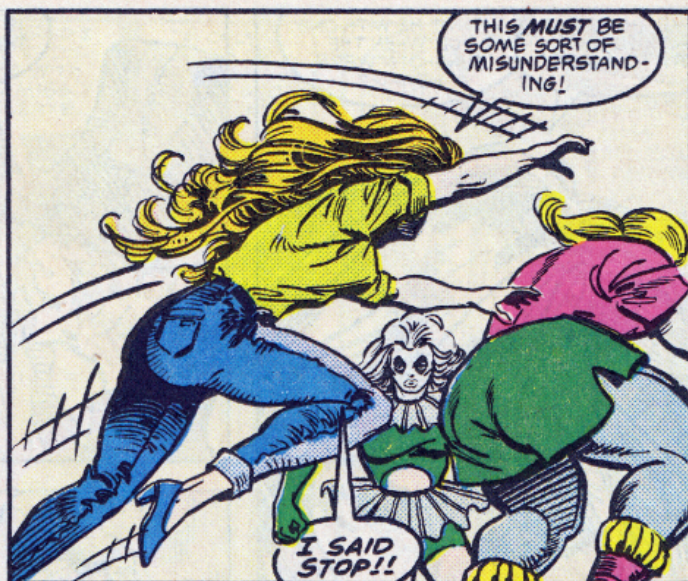
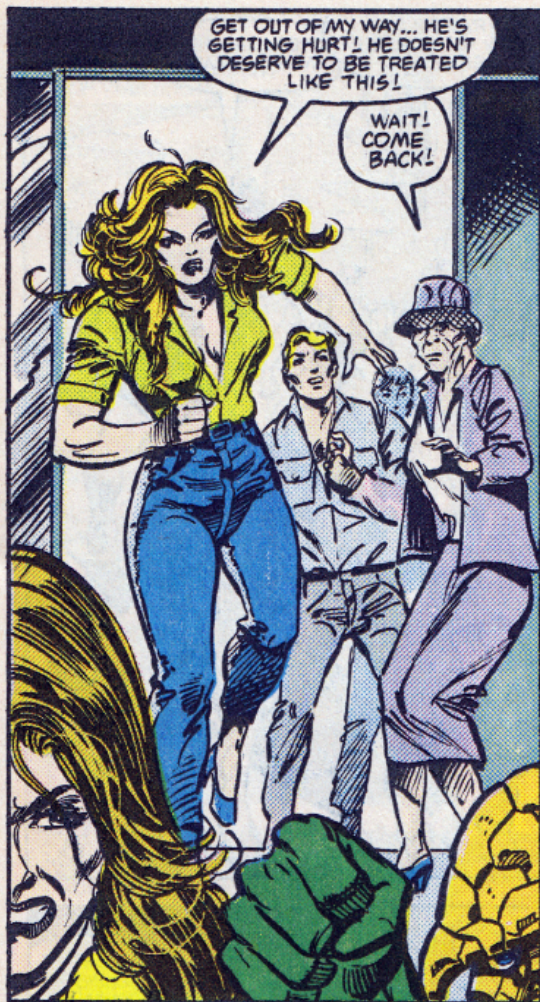


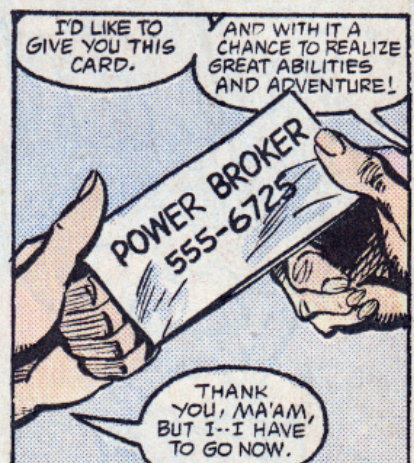
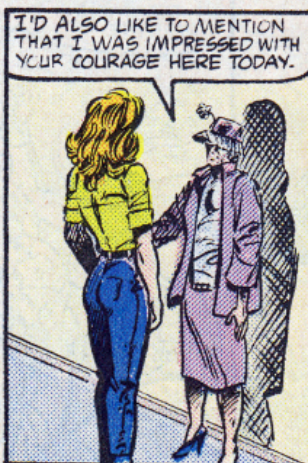
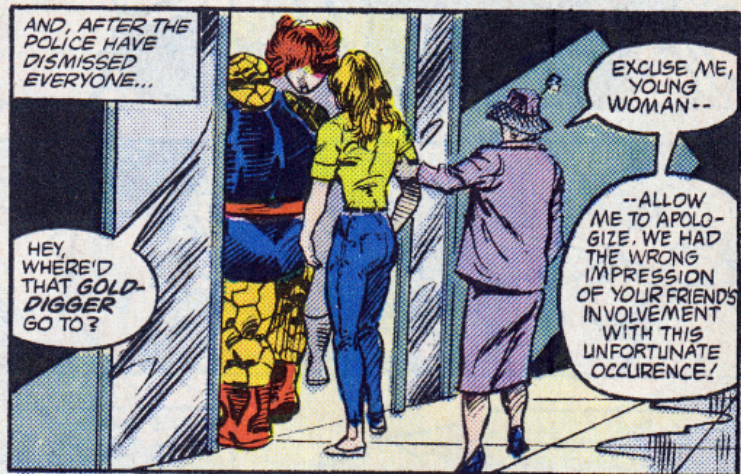
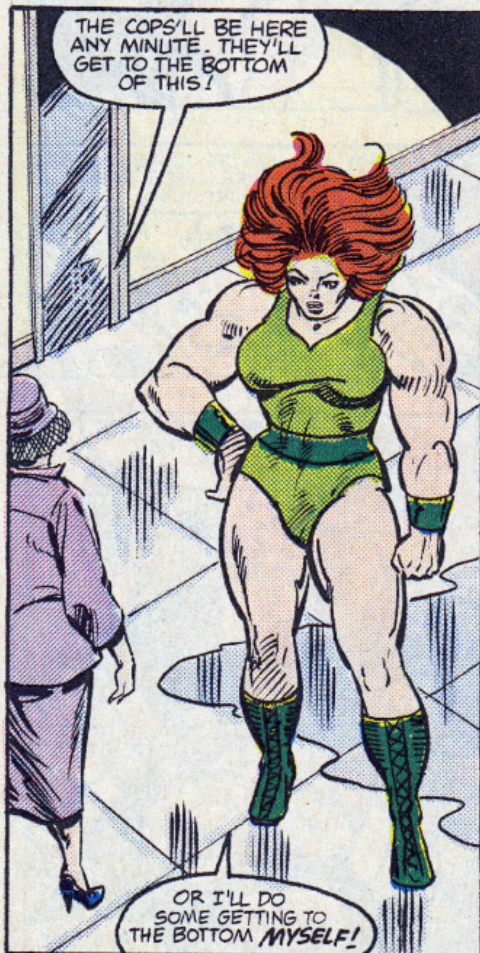
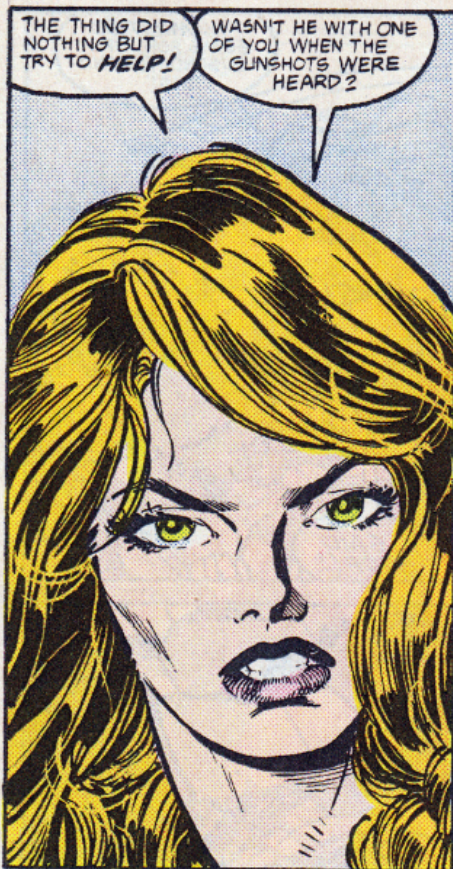
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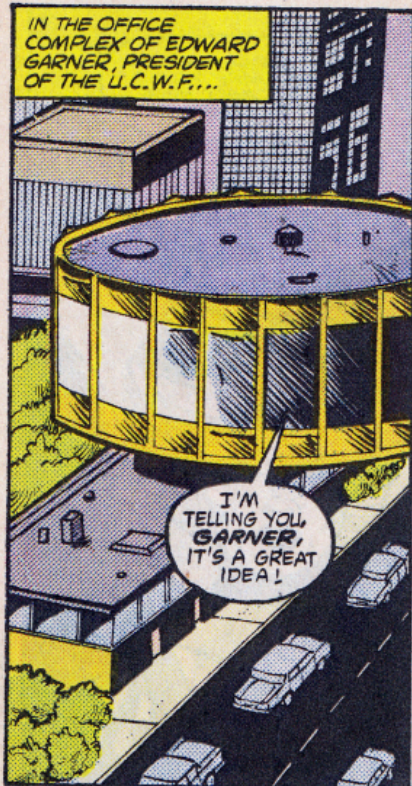
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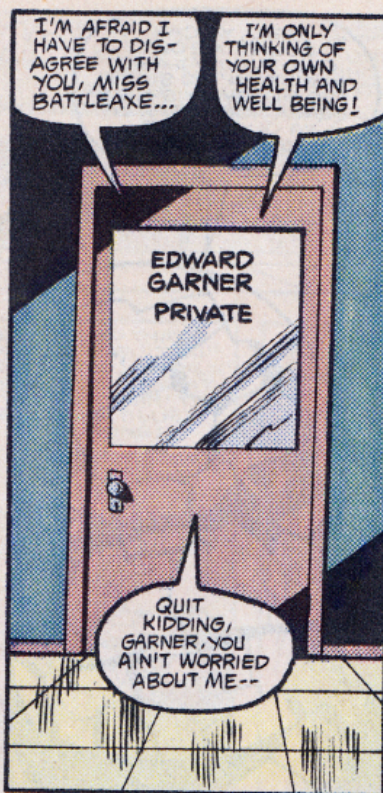






IN THE OFFICE COMPLEX OF EDWARD GARNER, PRESIDENT OF THE U.C.W.F...

I'M TELLING YOU, GARNER, IT'S A GREAT IDEA!



I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO DIS-AGREE WITH YOU, MISS BATTLEAXE...

I'M ONLY THINKING OF YOUR OWN HEALTH AND WELL BEING!

EDWARD GARNER PRIVATE

QUIT KIDDING, GARNER. YOU AIN'T WORRIED ABOUT ME--



-- YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUMS GOING UP IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE BALKING!

MISS BATTLEAXE, I ASSURE YOU--

LISTEN, GARNER--



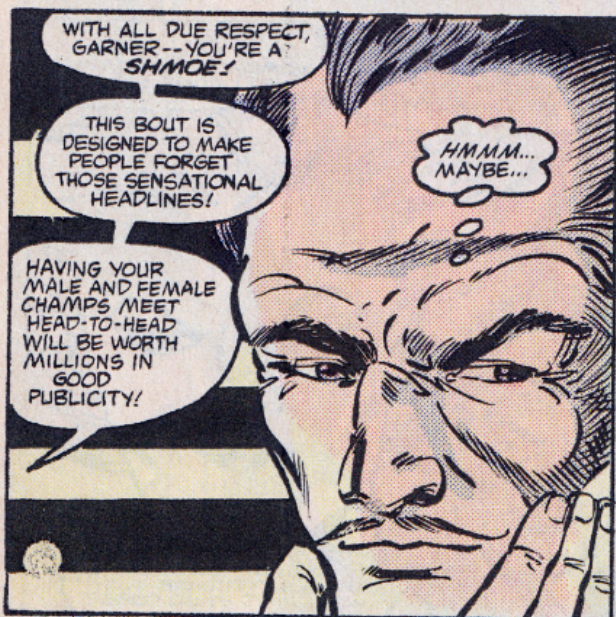
-- I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU! I ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL!

WHAT I'M ASKING IS NO BIG DEAL!

I WANT TO WRESTLE A MAN!

MORE SPECIFICALLY... THE THING!

LOOK, WITH TITANIA'S UNSOLVED MURDER, WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE NEGATIVE PUBLICITY FOR A WHILE.



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, GARNER-- YOU'RE A SHMOE!

THIS BOUT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE PEOPLE FORGET THOSE SENSATIONAL HEADLINES!

HAVING YOUR MALE AND FEMALE CHAMPS MEET HEAD-TO-HEAD WILL BE WORTH MILLIONS IN GOOD PUBLICITY!

HMMM... MAYBE...



SOON...

BEN... I'VE GOT A LITTLE PROPOSITION FOR YOU...

OH, NO... NOT ANOTHER PROPOSITION!

WHENEVER YOU PROPOSE SOMETHING, GARNER, I GET HURT!

BEN, BATTLEAXE'S SUGGESTED A UNIQUE NEW FORMAT FOR OUR WRESTLING EXHIBITIONS. WE'VE ALREADY GOT TAG-TEAM MATCHES, FREE-FOR-ALL BOUTS, EVEN MIDGET WRESTLING--

-- WHAT I WANT TO DO IS INSTITUTE CO-ED MATCHES TO OUR CARDS! AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO INTRODUCE THIS NEW ATTRACTION THAN TO HAVE THE WOMEN'S CHAMP MIX IT UP WITH THE MEN'S CHAMP?



WHAT? KNEW IT!

WELL, YA CAN COUNT ME OUT! O-U-T, OUT! I AIN'T WRESTLIN' NO SKIRT FER MONEY! IT'S CHEAP SENSATIONALISM AN' YA OUGHTA BE ASHAMED, ED!



WHATSA MATTER, CHAMP. 'FRAID YA CAN'T BEAT A SKIRT?



DON'T TRY AN' GET MY GOAT, B.A. 'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT ONE!

HOLD IT, YOU TWO--KNOCK IT OFF!

YOU ARE AFRAID OF ME, AREN'T YOU, CHAMP? HA! HE IS JUST A BIG ORANGE CHICKEN, AFTER ALL!

HA! SOME CHAMPION!



LOOK, I GAVE YA MY ANSWER... AN' THAT'S THAT! AN' YA KNOW WHAT? I'M GETTIN' PRETTY SICK O' ALL THIS-- THE WRESTLIN', THE PROPOSITIONS AN' EVEN YOU WOMEN, TOO!

BEN, WAIT!

I THOUGHT SURE HE'D WANT TO GET ME AND THE GRAPPLERS BACK FOR WHAT WE DID TO HIM THE OTHER DAY--

--OH, WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP WORKIN' ON HIM, GARN... HE'LL COME AROUND!



I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE, MISS BATTLEAXE. I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE!

THAT NIGHT, AT
DINNER TIME...

SMOKE STEAK HOUSE

OH, YOU
SHOULD DO
IT, BEN!

I'LL SAY
IT ONCE, AN'
I'LL SAY IT
AGAIN, SHAR--

STEAK
HOUSE
MEAT LIKE
YOU WON'T
BELIEVE!

-- I AIN'T WRESTLIN'
BATTLEAXE FER NO
AMOUNT O' DOUGH!

NOBODY LIKED THAT
PIPSQUEAK FROM "TAXI"
AFTER HE STARTED WRESTLIN'
CHICKS ON TV... I WANT
PEOPLE TA KEEP LOVIN' THE
EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-
EYED THING!

THERE'S
NOTHING WRONG
WITH EQUALS
COMPETING...
EVEN IF THEY
ARE OF THE
OPPOSITE
SEXES.

LOOK, SHARIE, I
HAD TA HIT A
FEW WOMEN
MENACES IN
MY DAY--

--AN' I HATED
DOIN' THAT! YA
KNOW, YOU WOMEN
ARE REALLY
STARTIN' TA GET
UNDER MY SKIN!

EXCUSE ME, WOULD
YOU LIKE TO SEE OUR
DESSERT MENU?

WHA--? OH,
NAH... NO,
THANKS.

I WAS TALKING TO THAT
AUNT FREEZE WOMAN, AND
SHE GAVE ME THIS CARD. I'M
THINKING OF CONTACTING
THIS POWER BROKER.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND,
HE GUARANTEES TO
INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH
AT LEAST 100 TIMES OR
YOUR MONEY BACK!

WITH THAT KIND OF
STRENGTH I COULD EVEN
JOIN THE GRAPPLERS.

LEMME SEE THAT!
SO THAT'S WHERE ALL
THESE SUPER-DUPES
ARE COMIN' FROM!

YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NO AUGMENTIN'
O' NOTHING, SHARIE!

SAVED BY THE
WAITER... HE JUST
KEPT A GOOD NIGHT
FROM GOING BAD. BEN...
LET'S CHANGE THE
SUBJECT!



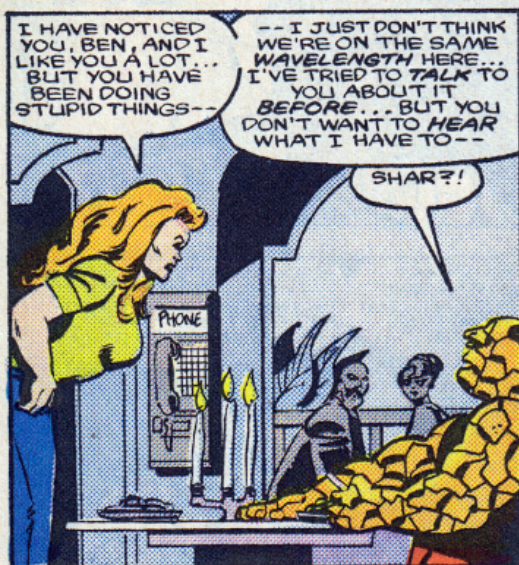
JUST A DARN
MINUTE, BEN...
WHO DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE
TO TELL ME WHAT
I CAN AND
CAN'T DO!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS
PAWN BROKER CLOWN IS,
BUT I DO KNOW HE JUST
CAN'T BE LEGAL! YOU
MIGHT GET HURT! C'MON,
SHARIE... I CARE
ABOUT YOU!



I'M STARTIN'
TA THINK YA
HAVEN'T BEEN
NOTICIN' ME HANGIN'
AROUND YA ALLA
THE TIME... I'M
CRAZY ABOUT
YA, KID!

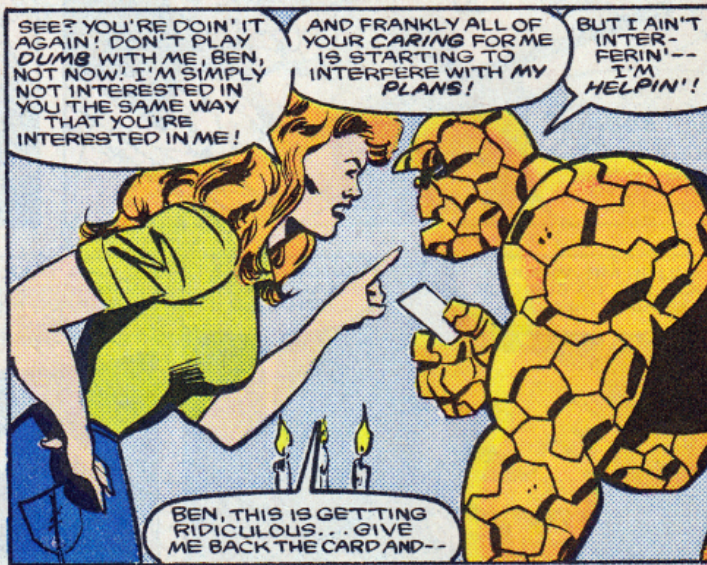
I'VE EVEN DONE
SOME STUPID THINGS
LATELY, TRYIN' TA
GET YA TA ACKNOWLEDGE
ME. LIKE MAKIN' YA
JEALOUS O' ME AN'
BATTLEAXE, BUT--



I HAVE NOTICED
YOU, BEN, AND I
LIKE YOU A LOT...
BUT YOU HAVE
BEEN DOING
STUPID THINGS--

-- I JUST DON'T THINK
WE'RE ON THE SAME
WAVELENGTH HERE...
I'VE TRIED TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT IT
BEFORE... BUT YOU
DON'T WANT TO HEAR
WHAT I HAVE TO--

SHAR?!



SEE? YOU'RE DOIN' IT
AGAIN! DON'T PLAY
DUMB WITH ME, BEN,
NOT NOW! I'M SIMPLY
NOT INTERESTED IN
YOU THE SAME WAY
THAT YOU'RE
INTERESTED IN ME!

AND FRANKLY ALL OF
YOUR CARING FOR ME
IS STARTING TO
INTERFERE WITH MY
PLANS!

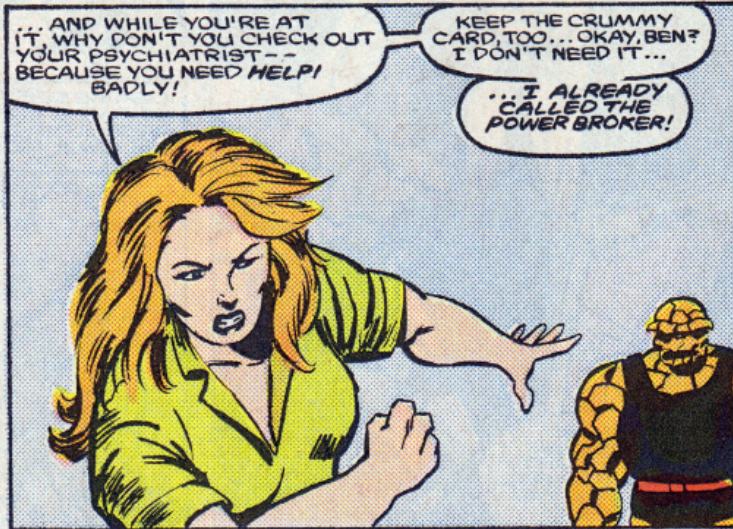
BUT I AIN'T
INTER-
FERIN'--
I'M
HELPIN'!

BEN, THIS IS GETTING
RIDICULOUS... GIVE
ME BACK THE CARD AND--



OH, NO YA DON'T...
I'M GONNA CHECK
THIS GUY OUT!

FINE,
BEN...



... AND WHILE YOU'RE AT
IT, WHY DON'T YOU CHECK OUT
YOUR PSYCHIATRIST--
BECAUSE YOU NEED HELP!
BADLY!

KEEP THE CRUMMY
CARD, TOO... OKAY, BEN?
I DON'T NEED IT...

... I ALREADY
CALLED THE
POWER BROKER!

531 N. BROADWAY BOX MC-15
DENVER, COLORADO 80203

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2-4
5-7
GIANT-SIZE
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CLOAK & DAGGER
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12-24, 36
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GIANT-SIZE
1
CHAMPIONS
1
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11-15
CLOAK & DAGGER
1
CLOAK & DAGGER
(1985)
1
2, 3
4-Up
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25
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1
2
3-9
GIANT-SIZE
1-5
SPECIAL
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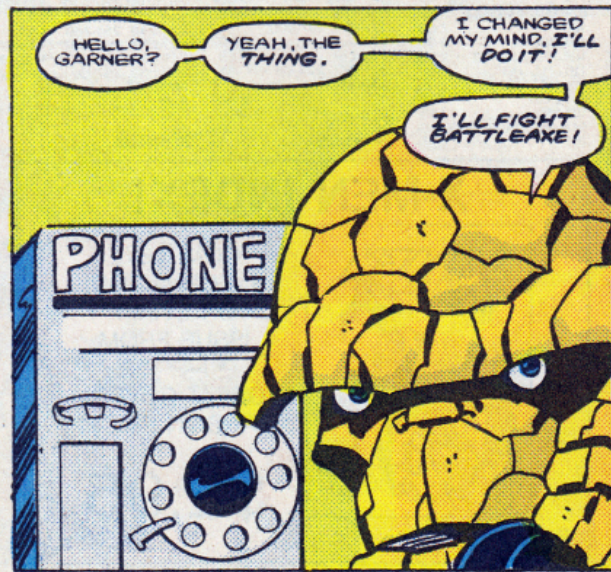
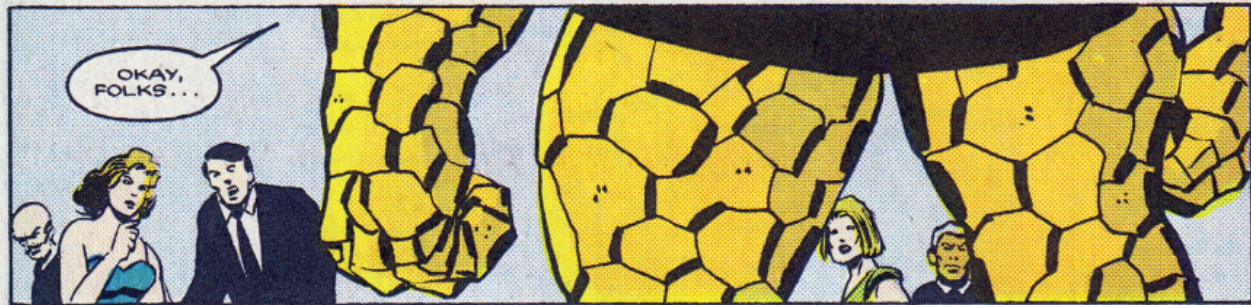
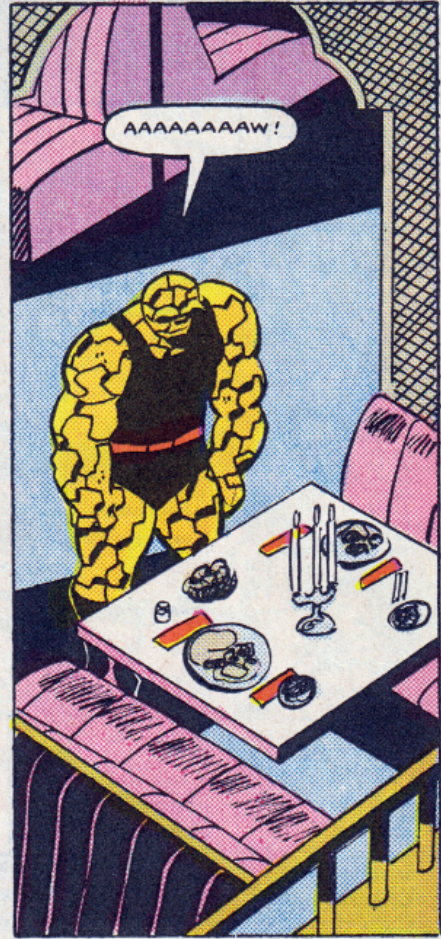
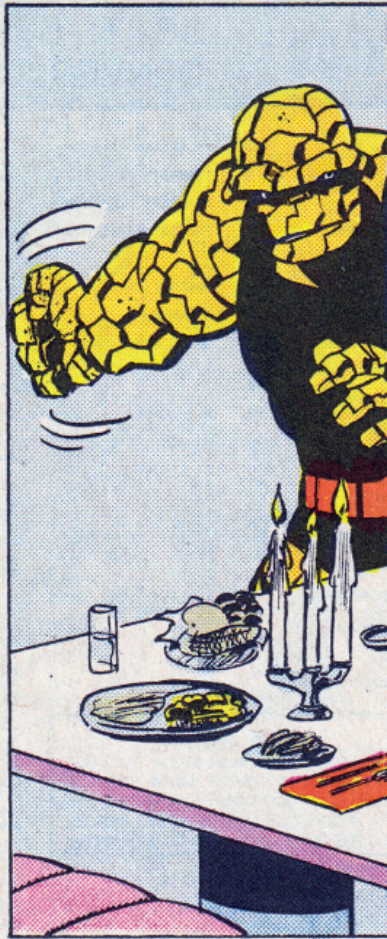
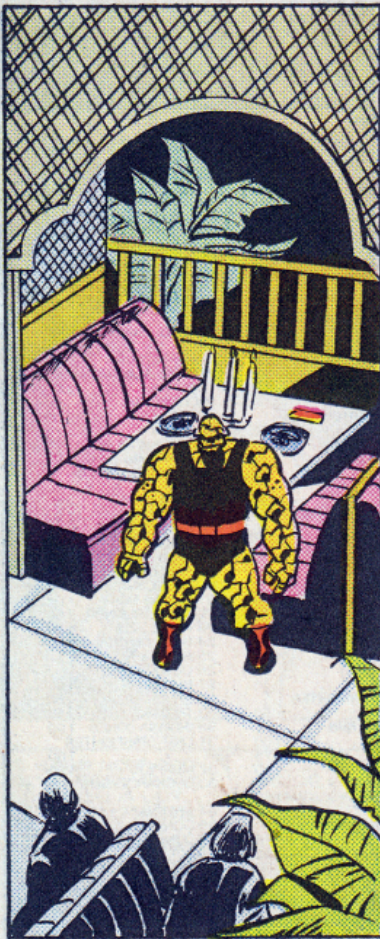
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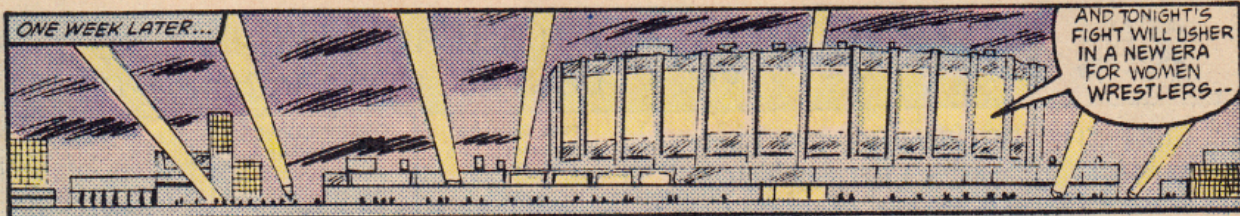
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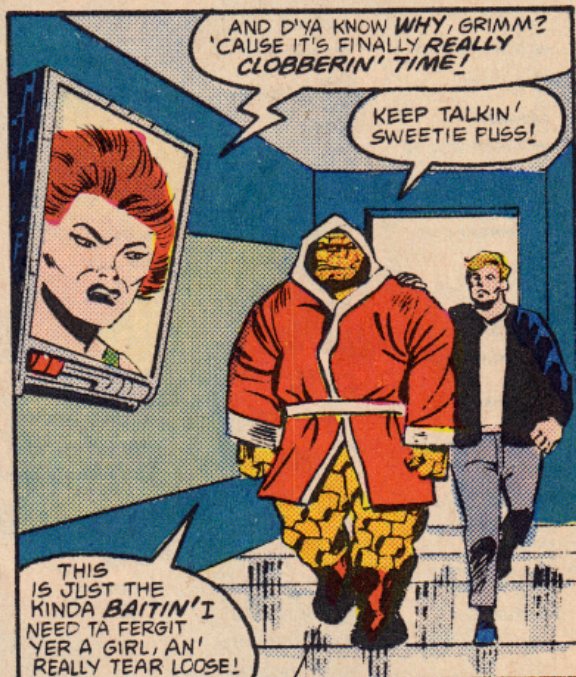
AND TONIGHT'S FIGHT WILL USHER IN A NEW ERA FOR WOMEN WRESTLERS--



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D'YOU HEAR ME OUT THERE, GRIMM-THING? I'M GONNA WIPE THE FLOOR WITH YOU!

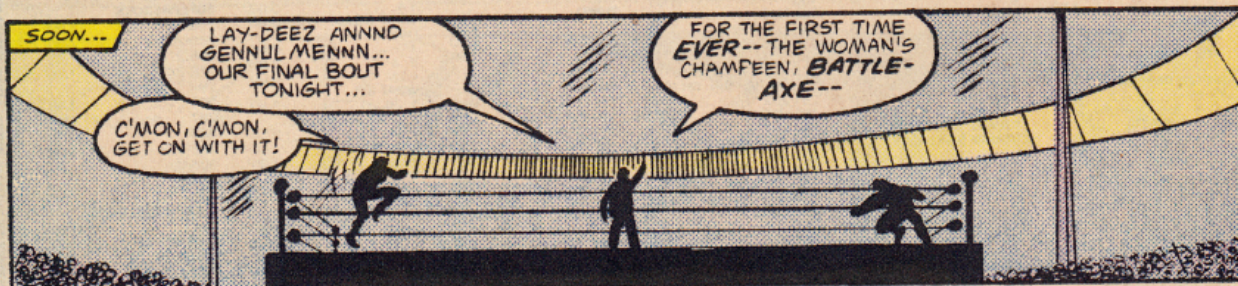
YOU'RE GONNA BE CALLIN' FER YA **MOMMY** WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!



AND D'YA KNOW **WHY**, GRIMM? 'CAUSE IT'S FINALLY **REALLY CLOBBERIN' TIME!**

KEEP TALKIN' SWEETIE FUSS!

THIS IS JUST THE KINDA **BAITIN'** I NEED TA FERGIT YER A GIRL, AN' **REALLY TEAR LOOSE!**



SOON...

LAY-DEEZ ANNND GENNUL MENNN... OUR FINAL BOUT TONIGHT...

C'MON, C'MON, GET ON WITH IT!

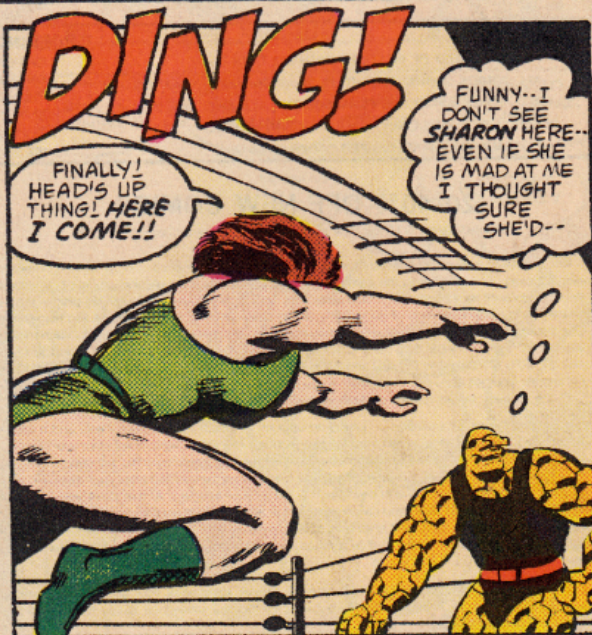
FOR THE FIRST TIME **EVER--** THE WOMAN'S CHAMPEEN, **BATTLE-AXE--**



--VERSUS THE MEN'S CHAMPEEN THE **THING!** IN AN ANYTHING GOES FREE-FOR-ALL-BOUT!

HURRY UP, PAL! I'M **ITCHIN'** TA GO!

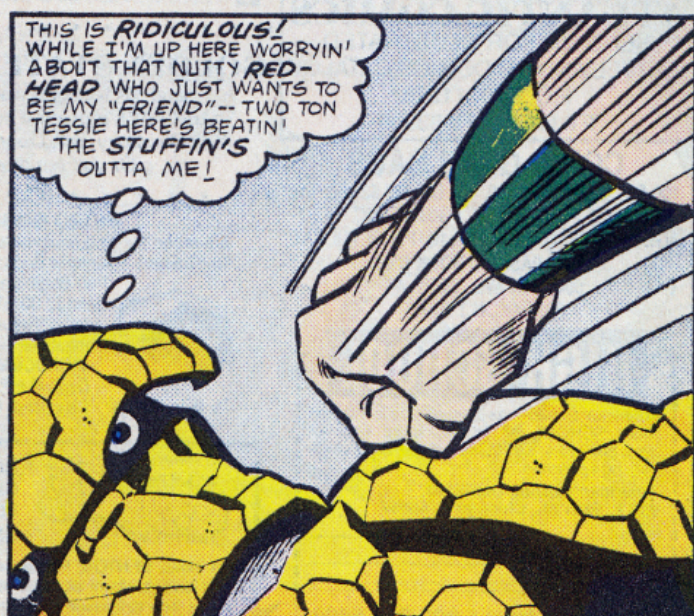
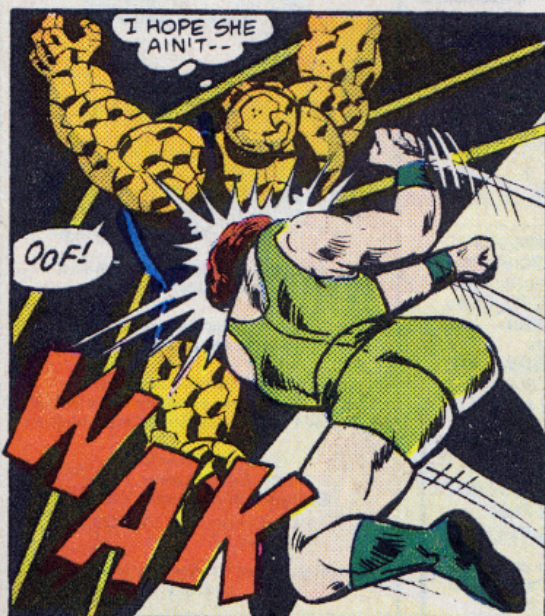
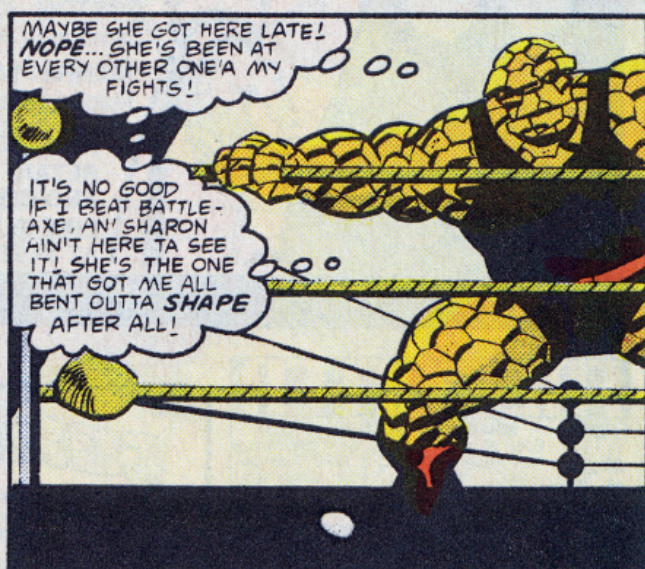
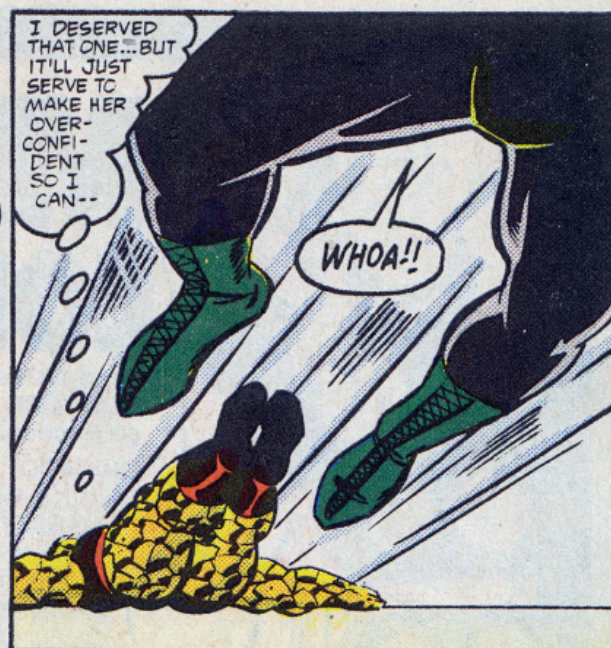
UH... SO WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ADO-- **LET THE MATCH BEGIN!**

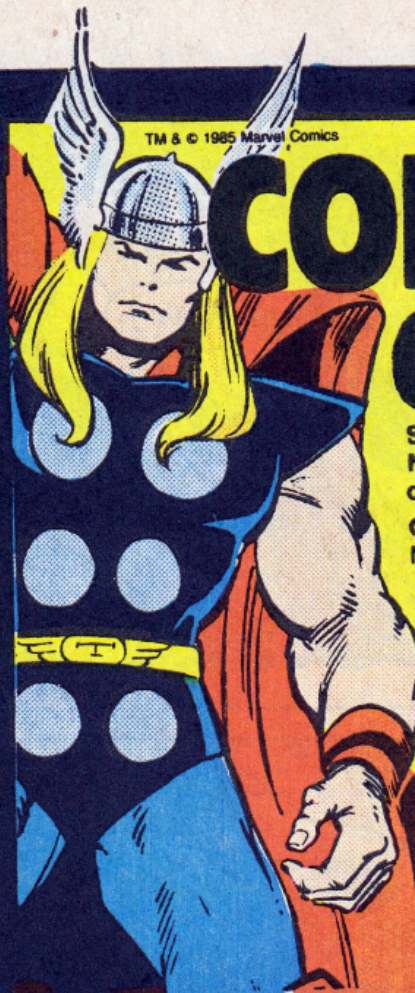


DING!

FINALLY! HEAD'S UP THING! **HERE I COME!!**

FUNNY--I DON'T SEE **SHARON** HERE-- EVEN IF SHE IS MAD AT ME I THOUGHT SURE SHE'D--





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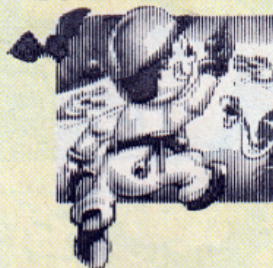
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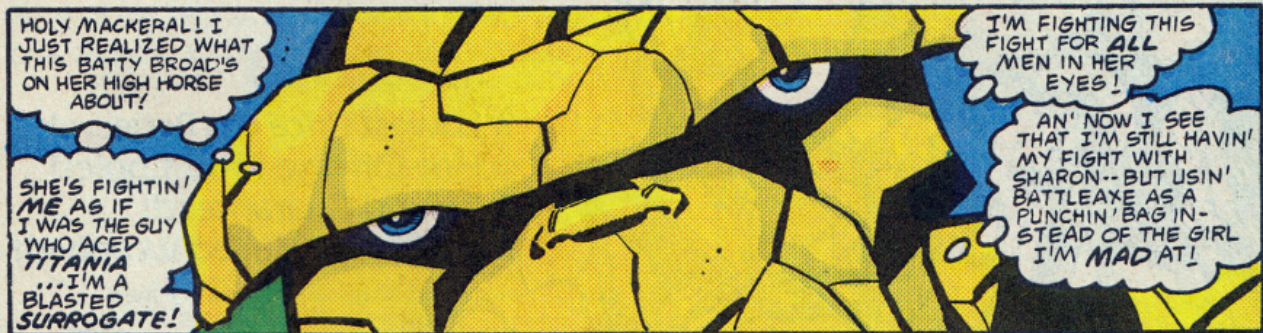
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--'CAUSE NOW I KNOW IT'LL
PROVE NOTHIN', 'CEPT I'M A BIG
CHUMP WHO GETS HIS JOLLIES
POUNDIN' ON WOMEN.

SO HOW'M I
GONNA GET OUTTA
THIS MESS--UNGH!
--GRACEFULLY?

KRAM!

BETTER
THINK
QUICK!

IT'S TOO LATE TO
TRY BACKING OUT OF
THIS **NOW**
GRIMM!

I WANT
YOUR BLOOD--

--AND I'M
GOING TO
HAVE IT!

ARRGHH!

KABAM!

WOW! SHE AIN'T
JUST WHISTLIN' 'DIXIE'!

SO WHUT DO I DO-- RISK MY
REP BY **THROWIN'** THIS FIGHT...
PURPOSELY **LOSE** IT? THE
NEWS MEDIA WOULD NEVER
LET ME LIVE IT DOWN! GARNER
MAY FIRE ME!

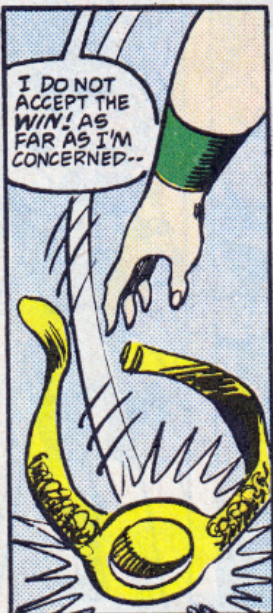
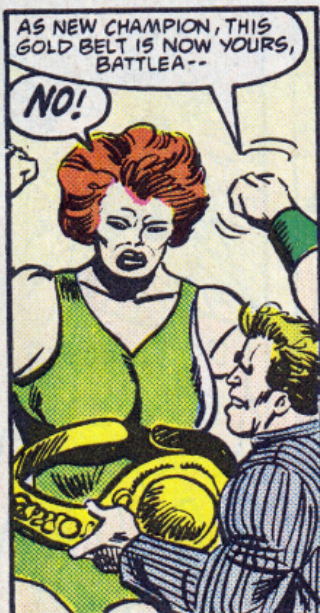
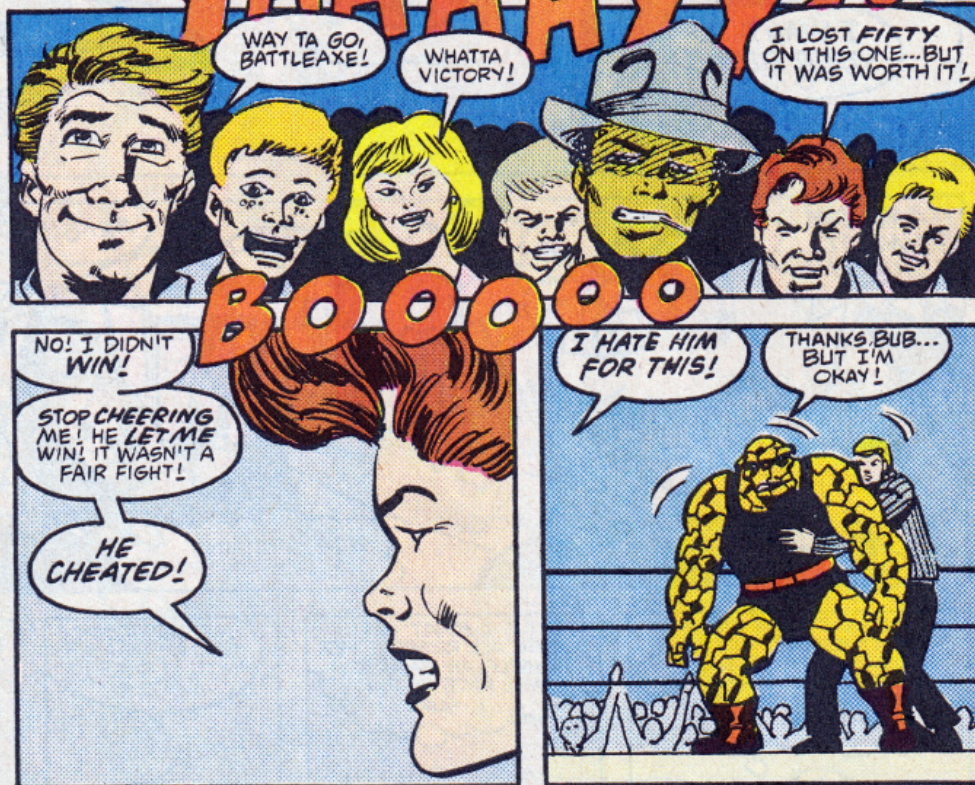
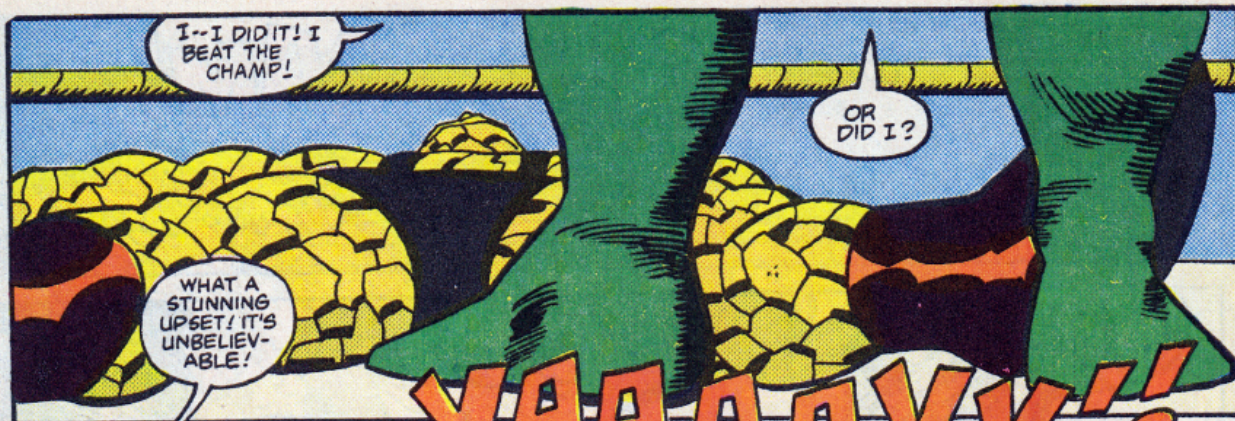
BUT IF I **BEAT** HER, I
LOSE ALL RESPECT FER
MYSELF, AN' **SHARIE**
WILL HATE ME FER
SURE!

MAYBE YA CAN
BEAT ME, MAYBE
NOT. IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

ALL I KNOW IS I'M
NOT GOING TO **BEAT**
YOOOFF!

LISTEN, B.A.,
I REALIZE NOW
I GOT NUTHIN' TA
PROVE BY TANGLIN'
WITH YOU!

**BA-
DOOM**



GRIMM TIDINGS

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Mike, Ron, Jack, Bob, Mark, and Jim,
I thought THING #27 was awesome, and I just wanted to write and tell you about it.

The pictures and coloring were perfect and the cover was better than any I've seen in a while.

The only thing I didn't like was the cheap shot you gave Ben in the end. He finally got Sharon (Tarianna) in his sights, when he finds out he's taking her place instead of working alongside her. That was really cruel, but I guess you have your reasons.

Once again, let me congratulate you on a job well done!

Eric Botting
Easte Hartford, Ct.

Dear Editors,

THING #27 was fantastic. The mag had it all—romance, action, mystery and surprise. I really liked Ben's eyes on page one. My friend says it was a mistake that was made to look strange. I say that's the way Ron Wilson wanted it from the start. So what is it?

It was good to see Team America again. I like their new costumes. Are the outfits permanent?

How come Tarianna/Sharon didn't say a word? Doesn't she want the Thing? My friend says it's because she's stuck up.

Yolanda Altaville
6 Barbara Road
Lake Ronkonkoma, L.I. 11779

Well, Yolanda, if you were nearly run down by a gang of bikers you'd have an odd expression on your face, too. That answers your first question. Regarding the Thunderiders new costumes—all things are permanent, temporarily. And, as you've noticed by now, Sharon's talking—and Ben may be worse off than ever.

Dear Mike and Ron,

I've only been following the adventures of everyone's favorite blue-eyed hero for about thirteen issues now, and I regret not reading the previous ones. Mike, you've taken the Thing and shown us a side of him that hasn't been spotlighted in the Fantastic Four before, because the other members' powers always seemed to outshine his. Now we get to see another facet of Ben, besides the whining, self-pitiful Thing of the F.F. Ben Grimm is one of the strongest beings in the Marvel universe. Let's see him fight some of the villains that made F.F. history like Blastaar or the Super Skrull (Where's he been?) Why not bring back Wundarr (the Aquarian)? I'd seen Ron Wilson's artwork in Marvel-Two-In-One, and I felt that his figures were too bulky and stiff but he's come into his own on this mag. The art is more fluid, and Team America (Thunderiders) have never looked better. Gentlemen, when are you going to have a THING Annual?

Larry Ruffin
198 Fairview Blvd.
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

Sorry, Larry, at the moment there are no plans for a THING Annual. Any great team on any world must have talented mem-

bers, who must sometimes lead, follow, give support or stand in the shadows. Everyone shines, but not all at once. With the Thing on his own now, he must be "everything" at once, all the time. Hmmm!

We agree with you, Larry, Ron Wilson's unique version of Team America was the best we've seen so far. But then, Ron Wilson does the best versions we've seen of everybody so far. That's why we're going to keep our eyes open for the new WOLF PACK series which will be penciled by Ron and written by editorials own Larry Hama. Why not put it on your Christmas list.

Dear Grimm Tidings People,

What?!? The Everloving Thing in the Thunderiders? No way! I know Mike Carlin won't allow this to be. Mike's way too smart for that to happen. In THING #27 you make old Benjy look so confused. His life is going down hill real quickly. Maybe Ben needs to see his dear old aunt Petunia—she'll set Ben on the right track again. This kid Astrovik has great potential. He and the Thing would make a superb team in the near future. I also think it's a great idea to make the Thing go after a girl we think is Tarianna. Well Mike wrote another "fantastic"...oops, sorry Ben. Just keep up the wonderful work and I'll be happy to buy the Thing every month. 'Bye now.

Jose Sarduy
421 Madison Street
Westburg, N.Y. 11590

Dear Editors,

The Thing Thunderiding? What will Vance ride—sidecar? I suppose if Ben Grimm became a biker, he could get leathers and tatoos and no one would notice that he's really mutated and not much fun on sleepover biking trips.

If Sharon is in fact Tarianna, that would make Vance pretty much dead weight. Why not leave him in the dust before "Sharonanna" realizes that the Thing comes complete with a runaway parasite? Now that he's added his two cents, there is no reason to belabor the issue. Go for it Ben, she's in the palm of your hand!

Richard Riech
Slowride Road
Daton, Oh.

Dear Mark,

I really enjoyed THING #27 and have always found the humor to be top of the line. But on page 12, panel 4, the line "kinda like piloting a pogo plane" is pushing the envelope. It's a little too sick for me.

I also think you guys slipped on page 3. I mean "the guy from the F.F.?" I thought he looked familiar..." line, is not believable. Give me a break! Once you see the Thing, how can you not remember?

The fact that Wolf comes through to help out was the best part of the issue.

James Accardi
230 Bluepoint Ave.
Bluepoint, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Editors:

Correct me if I'm wrong, but in "Rocky Grimm: Space Ranger," the Beyonder's planet created a physical embodiment of Ben Grimm's "human" side, which Ben then destroyed. What Ben has misunderstood is that creating a representation of his buried ego out of the planetary material is quite different from actually pulling that ego out of his body and installing it in a physical form. In other words, what Ben destroyed was only a symbol of his human self: quite real, yes, but actually not more than a replica, created by the planet in response to Ben's psychic impulses. Therefore, Ben's ego, or "humanity," if you will, remains buried deep inside him. But it is very much a part of him, making up the essential Ben Grimm, and always will. After all, to suggest that one's essence can be less than human just because one wears a monstrous form is to come perilously close to racial stereotypes of worth, based on color, gender, or physical perfection.

I hope that Ben will eventually come to understand this. Should Ben be able to be Thing or man again at will?

Lori Eaton
Alexandria, Va. 22302

Actually, Lori, if Ben really believes that his humanity has been destroyed, who's to say it hasn't been? After all, his ego depends very much on his conception of himself. But, your version of events certainly makes a bleak situation look better. Who knows, maybe the Thing's dilemma is not hopeless?

QUESTION OF THE MONTH?

What made you decide to go into comics?

Mike Carlin, writer: "My growling stomach."

Ron Wilson, penciler: "I like to draw."

Kim DeMalder, inker: "I took the advice of a college economics teacher."

John Morelli, letterer: "I took a vow of poverty."

Bob Sharen, colorist: "I needed the work."

Howard Mackie, assistant editor: "I followed the advice of my good friend Mike Carlin."

Mark Gruenwald, editor: "I was caught writing in art class and caught drawing in composition class, so I decided to go into a profession where I could do both."

Jim Shooter, editor in chief: "Poverty."

ITEM:

Paul Neary is currently hard at work on a SHIELD limited series. Bob Harras is writing the series and promises that Nick Fury will be put in situations that are even more hair raising than the exploits of Jim Shooter and Al Milgram while working with each other on SECRET WAR II.

NEXT ISSUE: CAPTAIN AMERICA'S

own Paul Neary acts as special guest penciler in an exciting story featuring the return of the Puppet Master and the Sphinx.

MARK GRUENWALD: editor — HOWARD MACKIE: ASSISTANT EDITOR

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

Heh! Heh! Heh! I'll bet you expected to find Jim Shooter here at his usual spot on the *Bullpen Bulletins* page. Well, you're out of luck! Big Jim couldn't make it this month. He's out of the office. In fact, he isn't even in the country anymore. Consider him history!

The big guy (known as the *Polish Prince* by his close friends) was last seen packing his bags, and heading for the airport. His first stop is Germany, where he'll be attending the world-famous *Frankfurt Book Fair*, and spreading the wondrous word of merry *Marvel* to some of the most prestigious book and magazine publishers in the entire known universe. From there, Jim will be jetting to merry ol' England where he'll be stopping by to visit our British counterparts at *Marvel U.K.* (He'll also be spending a few days consulting with the producer of the upcoming *Captain America* motion picture—but, I think that's supposed to be a secret so I'd better not mention it.) After that, our globe-trotting editor in chief heads to Paris, France where he'll be delivering a few lectures on the art, craft and editorial vision that goes into making every one of our mighty *Marvel* masterpieces. (By the way, Jim confided in me that he's also going to try to sneak in a day or two of sightseeing during this month-long European sojourn.

After all, the guy deserves a rest after having just completed the scripting chores on the best-selling comic book limited series of all time... **SECRET WARS II**!!)

And, now, comes the most exciting news of this column... while the Prince is gone, I am in charge of *Marvel Comics*. (Talk about a dream come true!) ME!! Ye ever-faithful executive editor Tom DeFalco!! (Cue the canned applause!)

I control the CAPITAL LETTERS! **The bold words!** *The italics!* (Ah, total power is so intoxicating!)

But, after my many years of association with a certain wondrous wall-crawler, I've learned one important truth... with great power, there must come great responsibility.

Or, I guess one could always opt for chaos...

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: The color yellow

From henceforth, the color yellow is banned from all of our books. It makes our heroes look too cowardly!!

With respect from the top,
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Letter columns

James Shooter (the guy who used to be in charge) often said that our letter columns were important because they gave us a chance to learn what the readers really thought of our comics. Effective immediately, letter columns will now be placed at the start of each book, and run ten pages in length. Story pages will decrease accordingly.

It's great at the top!
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Covers

It's time for *Marvel* to blaze new trails in regards to comic book covers. From now on, our covers will be printed **INSIDE THE BOOKS!** Make the readers wait for them!!

Dr. Doom was right!!
Tom D.

Hey, this is fun! I can't wait until Big Jim returns to see the changes I've made. I'm sure he'll be pleased...

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
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- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #4**—History was made in issues #46-65! Read all about it!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Gee!
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